

Appln. No. 10/031,160
Amendment
Reply to Office Action dated March 16, 2004

Docket No. 304-777

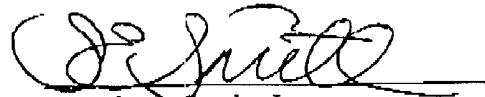
REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated March 16, 2004. This amendment is accompanied by a Request for Extension of time, together with an authorization to charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-26 were pending. In the Office Action, claims 5 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 1, 3-4, 6-16, 18-21 and 26 were allowed. Claims 2 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5 and 22-25 are cancelled herein, and claims 2 and 17 are rewritten in independent form. All claims are thus in condition for allowance, and prompt allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Rodman Steele, Jr.

Registration No. 25,931

Sarah E. Smith

Registration No. 50,488

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

Post Office Box 3188

West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188

Telephone: (561) 653-5000

Date: 8/10/04

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